

REMARKS

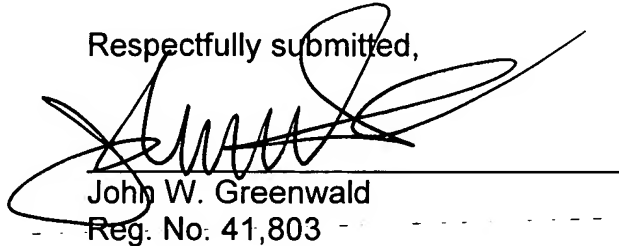
In response to the Restriction Requirement, the Applicant provisionally elects, with traverse, to continue prosecution of Invention I, Claims 1 - 36, directed to a system for receiving product orders. The Invention II claims directed to a method of processing orders, Claims 37-44, are hereby provisionally withdrawn, without prejudice.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.143, the Applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal or modification of the Restriction Requirement. Section 803 of the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (M.P.E.P.) sets out two criteria for proper requirement of restriction: (1) the inventions must be independent or distinct as claimed; *and* (2) there must be a *serious burden* on the Examiner if restriction is not required. The Applicant does not contest that the first criteria is met.

The Applicant respectfully submits, however, that the second criteria is not met. Namely, the Examiner would not be seriously burdened by examination of the claims of Inventions I and II together, as the system of Invention I is so related to the method of Invention II that a thorough search for either invention will likely overlap considerably with the other invention. In particular, in searching and examining the claims of elected Invention I for the system, the Examiner will likely already have completed most, if not all, of the search and examination needed for the method of Invention II. Applicant is a small entity with limited funds at its disposal, and should not be forced to incur the expense of filing a divisional application covering claims so related to those of the presently elected group. The Examiner's reconsideration in this regard is greatly appreciated.

It is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are now in condition for allowance, and the Applicant requests a Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. Should there be any further questions or concerns, the Examiner is urged to telephone the undersigned to expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,



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